

Rev. Martin Wehrmann  
St. Catharines, Ontario  
7 Dwyer St., L2M 7E9

MAY 31 2010

May 19, 2010

Dear Member of the Conservative Party participating in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration concerning Bill C-11:

It has come to my attention --and so also to the attention of my congregation that you are considering a revision to the current Immigration Bill with Bill C-11.

I have had a chance to review some aspects of the Bill and believe that not all matters proposed therein are in the best interests of the vulnerable people it hopes to help.

For instance -- pledging to increase the number of refugee entrants and those to be settled in Canada -- brought in through the sponsorship program **Contingent upon the passage of this Bill**, is not right in our opinion. To make a 'country of origin' list is also questionable as these can be used for screening purposes both to limit the number of refugees from a certain region or country as well as keeping out certain 'countries of origin' altogether. My personal experience is that our American neighbours presently use 'country of origin' rather than country of citizenship to determine even domestic travel permission at its borders. Is that our plan? Speeding up the 'determination' process and any review process may also create a difficulty for persons fleeing from persecution. They need time to find legal representation, gather documentation, compose themselves after a hasty and oftentimes dangerous flight -- and so also time to learn trust in this new country where they must again face 'strange' government officials. In many refugee-source countries it is the government that is the persecutor. Dear Sir, for these and other reasons we feel the discussion of this Bill needs more public input, such as this and more consultation with individuals and groups presently working with refugees and endangered persons.

Respectfully,

Rev. Martin Wehrmann



*P.S. Thank you for serving Canadians.*